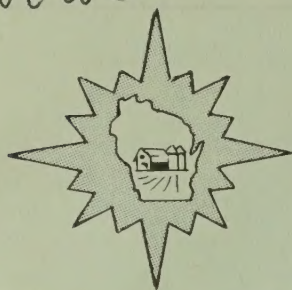


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VIII, NO. 5

March 1976

Cream of the News

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers declined 54 cents a hundredweight during February.

Cheese production in Wisconsin and the Nation for January was well above a year ago but the National butter output was down.

Wholesale prices of dairy products dropped sharply from January to February.

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during February was up 9 percent from a year earlier, the fifth consecutive month of a higher milk output.

Cold storage stocks of cheese and butter in the Nation at the end of February were substantially under a year ago.

Lower prices for milk and poultry caused the index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers to decline about 2½ percent from mid-January to mid-February.

The hog and pig inventory on Wisconsin farms March 1 was a record low of 1,070,000 head but the 14 major hog states were up 1 percent from the previous year.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of February were 15 percent below last year.

Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during January was down 4 percent from a year ago as an 18 percent drop in pork output offset a 4 percent gain in beef supplies.

Prices of good grade fed steers at the St. Paul market declined in February for the fifth consecutive month but utility cows were up as were feeder steers at Kansas City.

Prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul increased from January to February and were well above last year.

FEBRUARY BUTTER OUTPUT UP IN STATE BUT DOWN NATIONALLY

Based on weekly estimates, butter production in Wisconsin during February was above a year ago but the Nation's output was down. Dairy plants in Wisconsin churned about 5 percent more butter in February than a year earlier, following a 9 percent increase in January. The Nation's butter production for February was 7 percent under last year, a greater decline than the 3 percent drop shown in January.

Weekly estimates for February indicated that Wisconsin's production of American cheese was up from the previous year comparable to the 18 percent gain in January. The Nation's output of American cheese during February increased 18 percent from a year ago, somewhat higher than the 14 percent rise in January.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wis.	United States		Wis.
	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
January . . .	94,285	- 3	+ 9	149,292	+ 14	+ 18
Weeks ending:						
Feb. 5 . .	20,700	- 6	+ 4	36,000	+ 18	+ 22
Feb. 12 . .	20,600	- 7	+ 4	35,600	+ 18	+ 17
Feb. 19 . .	21,400	- 8	+ 7	35,900	+ 17	+ 14
Feb. 26 . .	20,900	- 8	+ 5	36,200	+ 18	+ 16
Total . . .	83,600	- 7	xxx	143,700	+ 18	xxx

MILK PRICE DOWN CONSIDERABLY IN FEBRUARY

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in February are expected to average \$9.10 a hundredweight, a decline of 54 cents from January. However, the February price was well above a year ago when milk averaged \$7.50 a hundredweight.

Milk prices for January averaged \$9.64 a hundredweight, down 19 cents from the previous month. The average milkfat

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content of 3.80 percent in January was below the 3.84 percent of January 1975.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$9.87 a hundredweight in January, a decline of 9 cents from a month earlier but \$2.05 above last year. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$9.29 a hundredweight for January, was 30 cents under December but \$2.26 higher than a year ago. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 58 cents compared with 79 cents in January 1975.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1975		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1976 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1975	1976	76/75 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.84	9.83	7.50	9.64	+ 29	9.10
Minnesota	3.72	9.36	7.07	9.19	+ 30	8.67
Iowa	3.85	9.90	7.39	9.50	+ 29	9.50
New York	3.70	10.35	8.20	10.30	+ 26	10.30
California	3.87	10.20	9.00	9.90	+ 10	10.10
United States	3.82	10.30	8.33	10.20	+ 22	10.00
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.84	9.96	7.82	9.87	+ 26	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.83	9.59	7.03	9.29	+ 32	xxx
Creameries	3.79	9.59	6.96	9.24	+ 33	xxx
Cheese factories	3.83	9.60	7.03	9.30	+ 32	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.82	9.53	7.02	9.23	+ 31	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Jan. 1975	Dec. 1975	Jan. 1976 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	6.84	8.96	8.88	+ 30
Market milk	7.09	9.08	9.07	+ 28
Manufacturing milk	6.48	8.76	8.58	+ 32
Creameries	6.51	8.86	8.67	+ 33
American cheese plants	6.45	8.78	8.60	+ 33
Varied products plants	6.48	8.73	8.55	+ 32
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	7.42	9.50	9.46	+ 27

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

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WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES DOWN SHARPLY

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined sharply from January to February. The 92-score butter price at New York averaged 82.40 cents a pound for February, down more than 5 cents from a month earlier but still considerably above the February 1975 price of 69.29 cents a pound.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 90 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during February. This was nearly 10½ cents below January but 13 cents higher than a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over \$1.21 a pound for February. Although this was more than 5 cents under the previous month it was 19½ cents above February 1975.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1975	January 1976	February 1976 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	69.29¢	87.79¢	82.40¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	76.88¢	100.44¢	90.03¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	101.75¢	126.50¢	121.25¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$11.90-12.49	\$13.20-14.16	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	59.24¢	66.04¢	64.25¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS DOWN

Cold storage stocks of cheese and butter in the Nation at the end of February were substantially under a year ago.

Butter stocks on February 29 amounted to nearly 17 million pounds, a decline of 72 percent from the previous year and the lowest for that date in 24 years. Government stocks of butter totaled about 3 million pounds compared with 22 million pounds on February 28, 1975.

There were almost 360 million pounds of cheese in cold storage at the end of February, down 22 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of American cheese were 24 percent under last year while Swiss cheese stocks were down by a third. Government stocks of American cheese were about half of the amount in storage on February 28, 1975.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1974	Feb. 28, 1975	Feb. 29, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	50,838	61,352	16,873	- 72
Cheese, American	328,196	393,638	299,610	- 24
Cheese, Swiss	15,223	13,402	8,916	- 33
Cheese, all other	52,116	51,467	51,306	n. c.
Cheese, total	395,535	458,507	359,832	- 22
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	1,495	4,498	2,248	- 50
Cheese, American	186,882	206,475	153,547	- 26
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	7,082	22,101	2,884	- 87
Cheese, American	449	1,718	840	- 51

*Included in above totals.

**Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States**

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1974	Jan. 31, 1975	Jan. 31, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	6,014	7,279	8,670	+ 19
Dried skim milk	59,245	124,020	45,053	- 64
Dried buttermilk	5,555	5,861	4,744	- 19
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ .	54,488	68,125	44,526	- 35

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

**CHEESE PRODUCTION WELL
ABOVE YEAR AGO**

Cheese production in Wisconsin and the Nation during January was well above a year ago. Total cheese output in the Nation for January was 249 million pounds, up 15 percent from last year. Both Swiss and Italian cheese had gains of 15 percent, while Brick and Muenster were up 29 percent and all other varieties increased 16 percent.

Production of American cheese in the Nation during January was 14 percent above a year earlier. Dairy plants in Wisconsin made 67 million pounds of American cheese in January, an increase of 18 percent from the previous year. Minnesota produced 23 percent more American cheese in January than a year ago, while Iowa showed a gain of 36 percent and all other states were up 2 percent.

Butter production in Wisconsin during January was 9 percent higher than a year earlier but the National output was down 3 percent. Although California made 25 percent

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January 1975	January 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds		Percent
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	19,500	21,300	+ 9
Minnesota	21,525	16,800	- 22
California	11,000	13,700	+ 25
Other states	45,325	42,485	- 6
United States	97,350	94,285	- 3
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	56,600	67,000	+ 18
Minnesota	21,660	26,645	+ 23
Iowa	6,600	9,000	+ 36
Other states	45,742	46,647	+ 2
United States	130,602	149,292	+ 14
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	12,950	14,908	+ 15
Brick and Muenster . . .	5,567	7,201	+ 29
Italian	51,140	59,006	+ 15
All other	16,039	18,626	+ 16
Total	85,696	99,741	+ 16
ALL CHEESE			
United States	216,298	249,033	+ 15
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage Cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/	56,322	56,221	n. c.
Creamed 2/	71,777	70,492	- 2
	1,000 gallons		Percent
Ice Cream			
Wisconsin	1,350	1,200	- 11
Illinois	2,850	3,000	+ 5
Iowa	680	740	+ 9
Michigan	2,680	2,660	- 1
Minnesota	2,165	1,655	- 24
Other states	48,888	46,526	- 5
United States	58,613	55,781	- 5

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

more butter in January than a year ago, Minnesota had a decline of 22 percent and all other states dropped 6 percent.

The Nation's ice cream production for January was 5 percent below the previous year. Output of cottage cheese curd in January was about the same as in January 1975 but creamed cottage cheese production declined 2 percent.

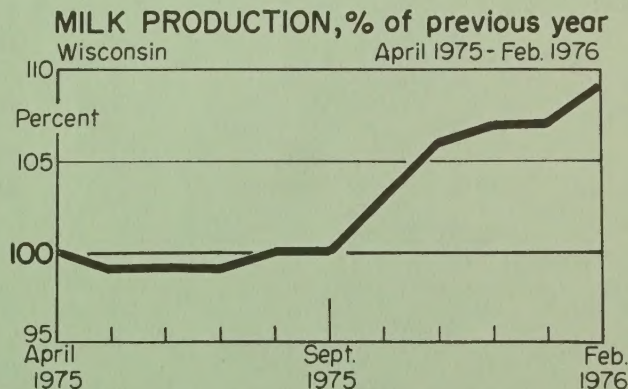
**MILK PRODUCTION REMAINS
HIGHER IN FEBRUARY**

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during February totaled 1,557 million pounds, an increase of 9 percent from a year earlier. This was the fifth consecutive month that the State's milk output was above the previous year. On a daily average basis, Wisconsin's milk production in February was 5 percent higher than last year when February had 28 days. Although milk cow numbers on farms during February were only slightly more than a year ago, production per cow increased by 70 pounds.

The Nation's milk production in February totaled 9,248 million pounds, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier. Milk cow numbers were 1 percent under February 1975 but production per cow was up 51 pounds. The February milk-feed price ratio was down 3 percent from January but was 28 percent above last year.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1975	February 1976	Jan.-Feb. 1976	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,430	1,557	3,169	+ 9	+ 8
Minnesota . . .	779	792	1,575	+ 2	- 1
Iowa	303	314	632	+ 4	+ 2
New York . . .	759	809	1,643	+ 7	+ 4
Pennsylvania . .	539	572	1,157	+ 6	+ 5
California . . .	780	851	1,742	+ 9	+ 7
Other states . .	4,192	4,353	8,875	+ 4	+ 2
United States .	8,781	9,248	18,793	+ 5	+ 3



MILK - COUNTY ESTIMATES

The table on page 4 shows county estimates of milk cows, production per cow, and total milk production in Wisconsin for 1973-75.

Milk Cows, Production per Cow, and Total Milk Production, Wisconsin By Counties, 1973-75

County	1973			1974			1975 1/			
	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Production	
									Quantity	Rank
	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	
Barron	47,800	9,900	473,220	48,400	10,200	493,680	48,800	10,200	497,760	11
Bayfield	5,900	9,700	57,230	5,900	9,800	57,820	5,900	9,800	57,820	61
Burnett	7,100	9,400	66,740	7,000	9,600	67,200	7,000	9,600	67,200	59
Chippewa	49,900	10,000	499,000	50,200	10,200	512,040	50,500	10,300	520,150	8
Douglas	2,700	9,400	25,380	2,700	9,500	25,650	2,700	9,600	25,920	65
Polk	34,600	10,100	349,460	35,200	10,300	362,560	35,200	10,300	362,560	22
Rusk	19,300	9,000	173,700	19,200	9,200	176,640	19,400	9,200	178,480	43
Sawyer	3,700	9,500	35,150	3,500	9,600	33,600	3,500	9,600	33,600	63
Washburn	5,900	9,600	56,640	5,800	9,800	56,840	6,000	9,800	58,800	60
Northwest District . .	176,900	9,816	1,736,520	177,900	10,040	1,786,030	179,000	10,069	1,802,290	
Ashland	3,800	9,500	36,100	3,700	9,600	35,520	3,800	9,700	36,860	62
Clark	66,800	10,200	681,360	67,200	10,400	698,880	67,500	10,500	708,750	3
Iron	800	9,300	7,440	700	9,400	6,580	700	9,400	6,580	68
Lincoln	11,500	9,400	108,100	11,700	9,600	112,320	11,700	9,700	113,490	52
Marathon	84,200	10,200	858,840	85,500	10,400	889,200	85,900	10,500	901,950	1
Oneida	500	9,000	4,500	400	9,000	3,600	500	9,000	4,500	69
Price	9,700	8,900	86,330	9,500	9,100	86,450	9,600	9,100	87,360	57
Taylor	29,700	9,900	294,030	29,600	10,000	296,000	29,800	10,100	300,980	29
Vilas	100	8,700	870	100	8,800	880	100	8,800	880	71
North Central District .	207,100	10,032	2,077,570	208,400	10,218	2,129,430	209,600	10,312	2,161,350	
Florence	1,000	9,900	9,900	1,000	10,000	10,000	1,000	10,100	10,100	67
Forest	1,700	9,000	15,300	1,800	9,100	16,380	1,900	9,200	17,480	66
Langlade	12,600	9,800	123,480	12,700	9,900	125,730	13,200	10,000	132,000	49
Marinette	13,400	9,500	127,300	13,200	9,600	126,720	13,800	9,700	133,860	47
Oconto	29,400	9,700	285,180	29,400	9,900	291,060	30,000	10,000	300,000	30
Shawano	45,800	10,500	480,900	46,400	10,700	496,480	47,500	10,700	508,250	9
Northeast District . .	103,900	10,029	1,042,060	104,500	10,204	1,066,370	107,400	10,258	1,101,690	
Buffalo	27,300	9,800	267,540	28,200	10,000	282,000	28,200	10,000	282,000	31
Dunn	40,700	10,000	407,000	40,800	10,200	416,160	41,000	10,200	418,200	15
Eau Claire	22,400	9,600	215,040	22,200	9,800	217,560	22,200	9,800	217,560	40
Jackson	18,600	9,700	180,420	18,700	9,900	185,130	18,700	10,000	187,000	41
La Crosse	21,400	10,000	214,000	21,500	10,200	219,300	21,500	10,200	219,300	39
Monroe	36,900	9,500	350,550	37,300	9,800	365,540	37,500	9,900	371,250	20
Pepin	9,900	9,900	98,010	9,900	10,000	99,000	10,000	10,000	100,000	54
Pierce	26,100	10,400	271,440	26,300	10,600	278,780	26,300	10,600	278,780	32
St. Croix	34,900	10,400	362,960	35,400	10,600	375,240	35,400	10,600	375,240	19
Trempealeau	35,000	10,200	357,000	35,500	10,400	369,200	35,500	10,400	369,200	21
West Central District .	273,200	9,971	2,723,960	275,800	10,181	2,807,910	276,300	10,201	2,818,530	
Adams	3,500	9,900	34,650	3,300	10,000	33,000	3,300	10,000	33,000	64
Green Lake	14,500	10,500	152,250	14,400	10,700	154,080	14,500	10,700	155,150	46
Juneau	12,700	9,900	125,730	12,800	10,000	128,000	13,200	10,100	133,320	48
Marquette	6,900	9,700	66,930	7,000	9,900	69,300	7,000	9,900	69,300	58
Portage	16,700	10,000	167,000	16,600	10,100	167,660	16,800	10,200	171,360	44
Waupaca	32,600	9,900	322,740	32,600	10,100	329,260	33,300	10,100	336,330	24
Wausara	11,900	10,100	120,190	11,900	10,400	123,760	12,000	10,400	124,800	50
Wood	24,900	9,700	241,530	25,300	9,900	250,470	25,500	10,000	255,000	37
Central District	123,700	9,952	1,231,020	123,900	10,133	1,255,530	125,600	10,177	1,278,260	
Brown	38,600	10,500	405,300	38,700	10,800	417,960	38,800	10,800	419,040	14
Calumet	30,700	10,800	331,560	30,000	10,900	327,000	30,000	11,000	330,000	25
Door	16,200	10,200	165,240	15,300	10,400	159,120	15,300	10,400	159,120	45
Fond du Lac	49,700	10,800	536,760	49,800	10,900	542,820	50,300	11,000	553,300	5
Kewaunee	30,000	10,100	303,000	30,100	10,200	307,020	30,200	10,300	311,060	27
Manitowoc	44,200	10,700	472,940	44,300	10,800	478,440	44,600	10,900	486,140	12
Outagamie	45,500	10,600	482,300	45,300	10,900	493,770	45,400	11,000	499,400	10
Sheboygan	32,600	10,500	342,300	31,800	10,900	346,620	32,300	10,900	352,070	23
Winnebago	24,100	10,800	260,280	23,700	11,100	263,070	23,900	11,100	265,290	34
East Central District .	311,600	10,589	3,299,680	309,000	10,796	3,335,820	310,800	10,860	3,375,420	
Crawford	19,300	9,400	181,420	18,500	9,600	177,600	18,900	9,700	183,330	42
Grant	55,000	9,700	533,500	55,000	9,900	544,500	55,400	9,900	548,460	6
Iowa	37,300	9,800	365,540	37,300	10,000	373,000	37,500	10,100	378,750	18
Lafayette	41,400	9,900	409,860	41,400	10,000	414,000	41,600	10,000	416,000	16
Richland	27,500	9,700	266,750	27,300	9,900	270,270	27,400	9,900	271,260	33
Sauk	37,700	10,300	388,310	37,700	10,500	395,850	38,000	10,500	399,000	17
Vernon	44,800	9,300	416,640	44,100	9,500	418,950	44,500	9,500	422,750	13
Southwest District . .	263,000	9,742	2,562,020	261,300	9,928	2,594,170	263,300	9,949	2,619,550	
Columbia	23,400	10,900	255,060	23,400	11,100	259,740	23,300	11,100	258,630	36
Dane	67,500	10,900	735,750	66,000	11,100	732,600	65,800	11,100	730,380	2
Dodge	62,000	10,800	669,600	61,600	11,000	677,600	61,600	11,000	677,600	4
Green	48,100	10,700	514,670	47,900	11,000	526,900	48,300	11,000	531,300	7
Jefferson	30,200	10,800	326,160	29,200	11,200	327,040	29,000	11,200	324,800	26
Rock	30,000	10,600	318,000	28,000	10,800	302,400	27,900	10,900	304,110	28
South Central District .	261,200	10,793	2,819,240	256,100	11,036	2,826,280	255,900	11,047	2,826,820	
Kenosha	9,000	10,700	96,300	8,200	10,800	88,560	8,000	11,000	88,000	56
Milwaukee	400	10,000	4,000	400	10,100	4,040	300	10,100	3,030	70
Ozaukee	10,400	10,100	105,040	9,700	10,300	99,910	9,900	10,300	101,970	53
Racine	7,900	10,900	86,110	8,000	11,100	88,800	8,000	11,200	89,600	55
Walworth	25,200	10,900	274,680	23,400	11,200	262,080	23,300	11,300	263,290	35
Washington	23,000	10,700	246,100	22,900	10,800	247,320	23,000	10,800	248,400	38
Waukesha	13,500	10,200	137,700	11,500	10,500	120,750	11,600	10,500	121,800	51
Southeast District . .	89,400	10,626	949,930	84,100	10,838	911,460	84,100	10,893	916,090	
STATE	1,810,000	10,189	18,442,000	1,801,000	10,390	18,713,000	1,812,000	10,430	18,900,000	

1/Preliminary. 2/Average number of milk cows on farms during the year, excluding heifers not yet fresh.

MEAT STOCKS DOWN 15 PERCENT

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of February were down 15 percent from a year earlier. Supplies of beef in cold storage were 7 percent below last year and pork stocks declined 26 percent.

There were almost 359 million pounds of beef in cold storage on February 29, 1976. While this was an increase of 8½ million pounds from the previous month, beef stocks were 27 million pounds below a year ago.

Pork supplies in cold storage at the end of February totaled 222½ million pounds, a decline of 13½ million pounds from a month earlier and 77 million pounds less than on February 28, 1975.

**Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1974	Feb. 28, 1975	Jan. 31, 1976	Feb. 29, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	443,759	376,626	341,538	350,623	- 7
In cure and cured	12,312	9,257	8,589	8,078	- 13
Total	456,071	385,883	350,127	358,701	- 7
Pork:					
Frozen	294,134	283,567	216,766	206,617	- 27
In cooler	15,547	15,999	19,307	15,887	- 1
Total	309,681	299,566	236,073	222,504	- 26
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	12,423	13,804	11,410	10,316	- 25
Lamb and mutton, frozen	13,018	11,221	10,872	11,120	- 1
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	67,593	69,155	49,575	58,678	- 15
Other meats	16,596	14,271	13,607	12,695	- 11
Total all meats	875,382	793,900	671,664	674,014	- 15

CORN HARVESTING SURVEY

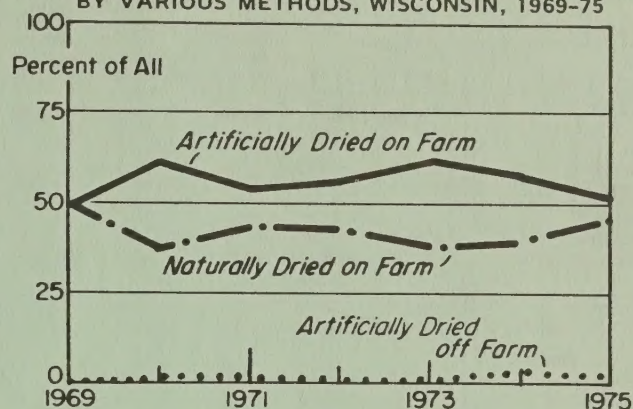
According to a survey on corn harvesting, handling, and drying methods, slightly over half of Wisconsin's 1975 corn for grain acreage was harvested using a corn head on a combine. Nearly 35 percent of grain corn acreage was harvested by mechanical picker in 1975, while about 14 percent was harvested by field picker-sheller.

Wisconsin farmers indicated that 52 percent of all farm stored corn was artificially dried on farms in 1975 while over 45 percent was naturally dried. A larger proportion of the grain corn reported in farm storage was naturally dried in 1975 than in any year since the first survey in 1969. Earlier planting, better growing weather, and a beautiful fall contributed to a lower moisture content in corn for 1975.

Almost 17 percent of Wisconsin's 1975 corn for grain crop was marketed direct from the field. Farmers stored 65 percent of the crop in cribs or bins, and about 12 percent went into silos. The remainder was stored off the farm.

A more complete report on the corn harvesting, handling, and drying methods survey can be obtained by writing to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 9160, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

**PERCENT OF ALL FARM STORED CORN DRIED
BY VARIOUS METHODS, WISCONSIN, 1969-75**



**Percent of Corn for Grain Acreage
Harvested by Specified Methods, Wisconsin, 1974-75**

District	Mechanical picker		Field picker- sheller		Corn head on combine		Other	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
Percent of all								
Northwest	43.2	64.6	5.2	7.6	50.9	27.2	0.7	0.6
North Central	53.5	73.5	9.6	5.6	33.9	19.5	3.0	1.4
Northeast	46.8	64.3	12.5	8.0	37.2	27.6	3.5	1/
West Central	31.6	39.0	8.7	15.2	57.4	45.4	2.3	1/
Central	33.5	41.1	5.5	15.0	59.2	43.5	1.8	1/
East Central	37.8	37.3	10.3	8.5	51.3	53.2	0.6	1.0
Southwest	40.6	42.4	13.5	11.6	44.9	45.9	1.0	1/
South Central	22.7	20.7	16.7	17.0	59.2	62.3	1.4	-
Southeast	12.1	14.0	7.0	14.8	77.6	71.2	3.3	-
Acres of corn for grain per farm								
1 - 99	65.4	73.8	9.5	7.9	23.3	17.9	1.8	1/
100 - 199	30.4	33.1	17.3	20.4	50.8	45.8	1.5	0.7
200 - 499	11.2	8.8	11.2	12.7	75.6	78.3	2.0	1/
500 - 999	6.0	6.4	10.9	18.7	80.9	74.9	2.2	-
1000 +	-	-	9.2	7.5	89.4	92.5	1.4	-
All farms	30.9	34.8	11.8	13.6	55.6	51.3	1.7	1/
Acres (000)	700	830	270	320	1,260	1,230	40	10

1/Less than 0.5 percent.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during January was down 4 percent from last year. An 18 percent drop in pork production offset a 4 percent gain in output of beef.

There were 132,000 cattle slaughtered in January, up 7,000 from a year ago. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered during January was 1,085 pounds, a decline of 15 pounds from January 1975.

Hog slaughter for January numbered 234,000 head, down 63,000 from the previous year. Average liveweight of hogs butchered in January was 252 pounds, 11 pounds heavier than a year earlier.

The 38,500 calves slaughtered during January were 2,500 more than a year ago. Calf liveweight averaged 138 pounds for January, up 12 pounds from the previous year. Only 200 sheep and lambs were butchered in January compared with 400 in January 1975.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	January		Change from last year	January	
	1975	1976		1975	1976
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	125.0	132.0	+ 6	137.5	143.2
United States 1/ . .	3,506.3	3,761.9	+ 7	3,582.1	3,786.2
Calves					
Wisconsin	36.0	38.5	+ 7	4.5	5.3
United States 1/ . .	375.3	466.2	+ 24	103.3	131.1
Hogs					
Wisconsin	297.0	234.0	− 21	71.6	59.0
United States 1/ . .	6,758.7	5,697.9	− 16	1,630.1	1,384.6
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.2	− 50	.039	.019
United States 1/ . .	681.7	600.8	− 12	71.8	66.1

1/Excludes Alaska.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX
LOWER AT MID-FEBRUARY

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers for farm products averaged 581 percent of the 1910-14 base as of mid-February, down 14 points (2.4 percent) from a month earlier. Although most livestock and crop prices were up, these were offset by lower prices for milk and poultry.

Slaughter cows averaged \$26.10 a hundredweight as of mid-February, up \$3.00 from the previous month and the best price in 21 months. A year ago slaughter cows averaged \$18.30 a hundredweight for February.

Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$515.00 each in February, a gain of \$5.00 from January and \$95.00 higher than a year ago. Veal calves, at \$35.50 a hundredweight for mid-February, were up \$2.50 from January and \$5.50 above last year.

Steers and heifers continued to decline in price. The February 15 average of \$34.30 a hundredweight was \$3.70 below January and the fifth straight month of lower prices for steers and heifers. A year ago steers and heifers averaged \$30.10 a hundredweight.

Hogs averaged \$46.80 a hundredweight as of mid-February. This was an increase of 80 cents from January and \$8.60 above last year.

Sheep averaged \$9.70 a hundredweight for February, a gain of 30 cents from a month earlier and \$3.90 higher than February 1975. Lambs, at \$43.00 a hundredweight in

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Feb. 15, 1974	Feb. 15, 1975	Jan. 15, 1976	Feb. 15, 1976
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	630.00	420.00	510.00	515.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	38.90	30.10	38.00	34.30
Cows	Cwt.	32.20	18.30	23.10	26.10
Calves	Cwt.	53.50	30.00	33.00	35.50
Hogs	Cwt.	38.30	38.20	46.00	46.80
Sheep	Cwt.	10.50	5.80	9.40	9.70
Lambs	Cwt.	34.00	35.00	43.20	43.00
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.155	.130	.120	.105
Turkeys	Lb.	.350	.370	.360	.330
Eggs	Doz.	.610	.444	.525	.505
Corn	Bu.	2.73	2.87	2.43	2.49
Wheat	Bu.	5.44	3.72	3.05	3.35
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.50	1.40	1.41
Soybeans	Bu.	5.87	5.58	4.34	4.40
Alfalfa hay, baled .	Ton	35.00	38.50	50.50	52.50

1/Excludes broilers.

February, were down 20 cents from January but \$8.00 above the previous year.

Turkeys declined 3 cents from January to February and at 33 cents a pound liveweight were 4 cents under February 1975. Egg prices averaged 50½ cents a dozen in February, down 2 cents from January but 6 cents more than last year.

Wheat prices increased 30 cents from January to February. At \$3.35 a bushel on February 15, wheat was still 37 cents below a year ago. Corn averaged \$2.49 a bushel in February, up 6 cents from the previous month but 38 cents under February 1975.

Oats averaged \$1.41 a bushel at mid-February, a gain of 1 cent from January but 9 cents lower than a year earlier. Soybeans increased 6 cents from January to February but at \$4.40 a bushel were \$1.18 below February last year.

Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$52.50 a ton in mid-February, up \$2.00 from a month earlier and \$14.00 above the previous year.

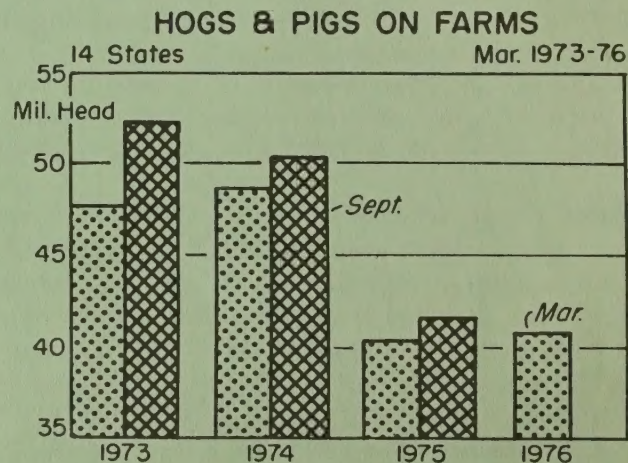
HOG INVENTORY RECORD
LOW FOR WISCONSIN

Wisconsin farmers had only 1,070,000 hogs and pigs on farms March 1, down 11 percent from a year earlier and a record low for any period since quarterly estimates began in 1960. Hogs kept for breeding purposes numbered 205,000 as of March 1, about the same as a year ago but the 865,000 market hogs were down 13 percent.

There were 65,000 sows farrowing in Wisconsin during December through February, an increase of 3,000 from that quarter a year earlier. The pig crop of 491,000 was up 8 percent as the average litter rate was 7.55 pigs compared with 7.35 pigs per litter in December 1974 - February 1975.

Farrowings in Wisconsin from March through May are expected to total 85,000 sows, the same as in that quarter last year. Farmers in the State intend to farrow 70,000 sows during June through August, a decline of 5,000 from the previous year.

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1 in the 14 states where quarterly estimates are made totaled nearly 41 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago. Although market hogs were about the same as on March 1, 1975, breeding stock showed an increase of 10 percent. Farrowings in the 14 states during December through February were 15 percent more than a year earlier. Farrowing intentions for the next six months indicate an increase of 10 percent from March - August 1975.



All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
March 1, 1975 and 1976, 14 States

State	For Breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	237	245	+ 3	1,293	1,155	- 11	1,530	1,400	- 8
Illinois	856	872	+ 2	5,044	4,578	- 9	5,900	5,450	- 8
Indiana	500	570	+ 14	3,200	3,230	+ 1	3,700	3,600	+ 3
Iowa	1,767	2,057	+ 16	9,633	10,043	+ 4	11,400	12,100	+ 6
Kansas	193	263	+ 36	1,257	1,487	+ 18	1,450	1,750	+ 21
Kentucky	146	166	+ 14	804	784	- 2	950	950	n. c.
Minnesota	434	465	+ 7	2,666	2,535	- 5	3,100	3,000	- 3
Missouri	513	525	+ 2	2,587	2,475	- 4	3,100	3,000	- 3
Nebraska	357	405	+ 13	2,193	2,295	+ 5	2,550	2,700	+ 6
North Carolina	272	311	+ 14	1,428	1,609	+ 13	1,700	1,920	+ 13
Ohio	241	245	+ 2	1,409	1,390	- 1	1,650	1,635	- 1
South Dakota	240	247	+ 3	1,060	1,053	- 1	1,300	1,300	n. c.
Texas	120	130	+ 8	680	660	- 3	800	790	- 1
Wisconsin	204	205	n. c.	996	865	- 13	1,200	1,070	- 11
Total 14 States	6,080	6,706	+ 10	34,250	34,159	n. c.	40,330	40,865	+ 1

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
December 1/ through February, 1975 and 1976, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 2/		
	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	75	77	+ 3	7.07	6.76	530	521	- 2
Illinois	260	275	+ 6	6.80	7.00	1,768	1,925	+ 9
Indiana	160	195	+ 22	7.11	6.80	1,138	1,326	+ 17
Iowa	440	520	+ 18	7.05	7.25	3,102	3,770	+ 22
Kansas	70	94	+ 34	6.95	7.05	487	663	+ 36
Kentucky	50	54	+ 8	7.00	7.00	350	378	+ 8
Minnesota	140	164	+ 17	7.10	7.30	994	1,197	+ 20
Missouri	140	160	+ 14	7.06	7.15	988	1,144	+ 16
Nebraska	110	127	+ 15	7.40	7.20	814	914	+ 12
North Carolina	97	116	+ 20	7.00	7.10	679	824	+ 21
Ohio	80	90	+ 13	7.20	7.10	576	639	+ 11
South Dakota	52	62	+ 19	7.00	7.00	364	434	+ 19
Texas	42	48	+ 14	7.00	6.80	294	326	+ 11
Wisconsin	62	65	+ 5	7.35	7.55	456	491	+ 8
Total 14 States	1,778	2,047	+ 15	7.05	7.11	12,540	14,552	+ 16

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

Sows Farrowed and Sows to Farrow
March through August, 1975 and 1976, 14 States

State	March through May			June through August		
	1975	1976 1/	Change from last year	1975	1976 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	62	70	+ 13	62	70	+ 13
Illinois	380	390	+ 3	335	335	n. c.
Indiana	170	200	+ 18	190	205	+ 8
Iowa	745	800	+ 7	575	680	+ 18
Kansas	82	110	+ 34	70	95	+ 36
Kentucky	55	60	+ 9	52	52	n. c.
Minnesota	170	190	+ 12	155	180	+ 16
Missouri	190	220	+ 16	160	175	+ 9
Nebraska	160	180	+ 13	125	140	+ 12
North Carolina	93	107	+ 15	94	105	+ 12
Ohio	90	100	+ 11	85	80	- 6
South Dakota	112	120	+ 7	68	75	+ 10
Texas	34	43	+ 26	42	50	+ 19
Wisconsin	85	85	n. c.	75	70	- 7
Total 14 States	2,428	2,675	+ 10	2,088	2,312	+ 11

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

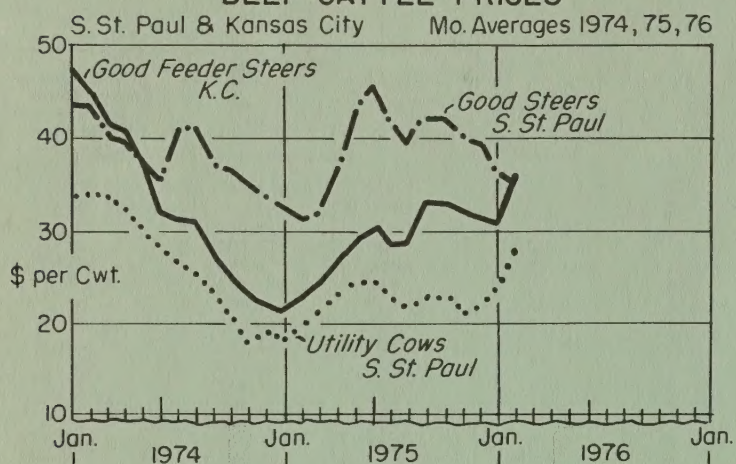
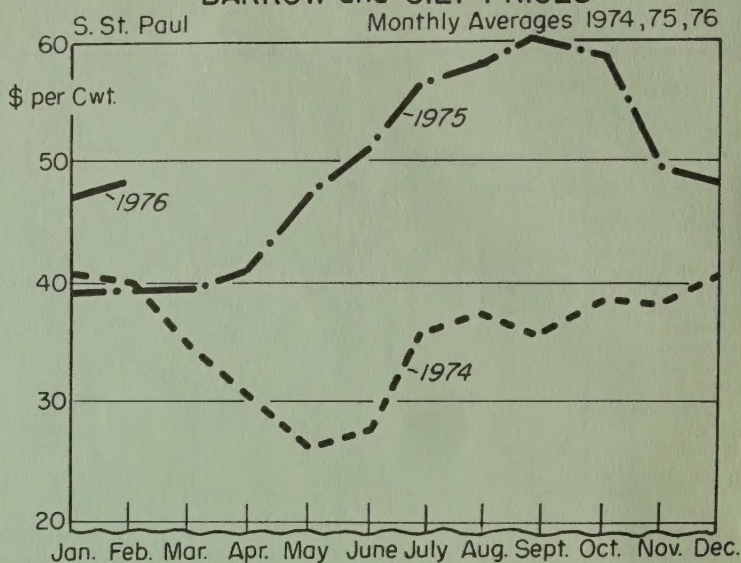
FEEDER STEER PRICES UP

Prices of good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$35.93 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market during February. This was an increase of \$4.67 from January and the highest feeder steer price since May 1974. A year ago the average price of feeder steers at Kansas City was only \$23.33 a hundredweight.

Prices of goodgrade fed steers at the St. Paul market

declined in February for the fifth consecutive month. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$35.69 a hundredweight for February, down \$1.08 from the previous month but \$4.36 above last year.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$28.21 a hundredweight in February, a gain of \$3.32 from January and the highest since June 1974. Last year utility cows averaged just \$19.83 a hundredweight for February.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES**BARROW and GILT PRICES****BARROWS AND GILTS
HIGHER IN FEBRUARY**

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$48.38 a hundredweight during February. This was an increase of 43 cents from the previous month and \$9.14 above a year ago.

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